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Kindly mail any reply
to 7707 MacGregor Ave.,
Burnaby, B.C.

Box 212,
Port Coquitlam, B.C.,
February 1st, 1960.

Secretary,
Royal Commission on Coal (1959)
P.O. Box 127, Postal Station "D"
Ottawa, Ont.

EXHIBIT 59

The following presentation will come to you as a private citizen's submission, gained from a careful study of the matter in certain aspects of our economy.

1. The first point to be taken is - That the exploitation of Canada's resources is being permitted as though crooks were staging a bank holdup in broad daylight and with the authorities looking on around the corner with their hand out for some of the rewards.

The avaricious greed of these exploiters and financial interests is beyond description, for they seek ONLY the benefit of their own pockets and fail to see that this country will be the homeland for a population just as large as the United States (ultimately) and that population will have to be supported by these same God-given natural resources for the next one thousand and forty years - that being the length of time to fulfil the word of scripture prophecy as God-given in the Bible.

With THIS knowledge then we must carefully plan ahead for that length of time and our motto should be CONSERVATION; even as at last it has become in the case of some of our timber preserves, in that they are now being cut under "tree farm licenses" or "public working circles" and the cut regulated to the annual growth.

This same plan must be put into operation with every natural resource. It is admitted that coal, oil, gas, cannot be replaced as the growth of the tree rings, but we can conserve them in this way - permit ONLY sufficient production as our own nation requires immediately and in the very near future - increasing production ONLY when the increase of our population warrants it.

2. Comes the next point of consideration: The action of by-passing useful and still-usable resources commodities to open a new field of easier gathered and easier transported fuels such as oil and gas.

Thus COAL was by-passed: one of its by-products being coal-gas processed in innumerable retert plants across the nation, and its place taken by the newer, cleaner, non-poisonous "natural gas" but to the LOSS of thousands of coal mining jobs throughout Canada.

This matter of serious labour curtailment was NOT considered sufficiently enough in the light of BALANCE before permits were granted for such exploitation of "natural gas". Whereas, let us say, Alberta gained materially by such exploitation, a corresponding section of the Provincial economies LOST HEAVILY in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and in the Crow's Nest Pass district of B.C.

The same story is told relating to oils taking the place of

coal in the nation's rail transportation system.

May I say that again the BALANCE WAS LOST SIGHT OF if indeed it was ever weighed in the light of employment and the disruption of township's economies. To me this is very sad.

3. And it leads me to my third point: viz. THAT SUCH WEIGHING OF THE MATTER MUST NOW TAKE PLACE, even if it means the radical curtailment of oil and "natural gas" production so as to conserve these two elements for future generations.

Looking at Canada as a whole we are blessed with excellent coal deposits from the West Coast thru the Prairies, thence jumping into the Maritimes. In British Columbia we have large deposits in the unopened as yet "Groundhog area" - in the Lower Kootenays where Fernie is located, and in the newly opening Peace River area of the Province. Alberta is largely underlain with coal beds of varying values; the other Prairie Provinces have some coals. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia are likewise blessed with some good seams, and I presume there is some in New Poundland.

The cessation of usage of the black diamonds for heating and railways depressed these areas sadly. There is presently better reports coming out of New Brunswick because of Ontario's greater usage for steam-electric plants, and there is some improvement hoped for at Fernie in B.C. because of the effort being made to sell to Japan and to set up bulk ore handling docks at Burrard Inlet tide water. This is all excellent to keep the industry alive, and for it we can thank God.

4. Proceeding to the next matter: which is the greater and greater use of coal and the most excellent way so to do.

This must be of necessity by a greater production per man and that means only one thing - greater mechanization which also will take the heavy labour burden off the miner's back. It no doubt will mean greater capital investment but this will be readily forthcoming with the long-range view of coal-mining.

There is a very happy linkage between the black dust and the white power and I will briefly outline it: The coal can be mined most expeditiously without thought of preserving lump coal. It will be mostly crushed at the pit head into coal dust, and used in the most modern furnaces installed right there for firing thermal-electric plants, for the latest information on such up-to-date furnaces now being built and used in the Eastern States is that they generate a Kilowatt of energy for every 2/3 pound of coal burned, a ratio that is proving EXCELLENT, but which they expect will be lowered yet further.

All these pit-head thermal-electric generating plants will be connected to a National Canadian-American Power Grid and the cost factor ironed out so that every part of the nation benefits from lowered power costs.

There is envisioned in the planning a complete ELECTRIFICATION of our entire railway system which must, of necessity be unified into one business enterprise from Coast to Coast to further save costs.

5. Another point to be presented is this: THAT IN EVERY LOCATION WHERE THERE IS AN ABUNDANCE OF COKING COALS AND IRON ORE WE SHALL ESTABLISH SMELTERS and revolutionize the prospects in Canada where now all steel is shipped West from the industrial heartland of Ontario.

As the Provinces grow, and their growth is now to be much more rapid with increased immigration from the British Isles to escape the ravages of atomic bombing in the foreseeable future, greater numbers of citizens will use more and more steel and its products and great sums will be saved by cutting transportation costs.

Thus it is very interesting to have word from Alberta that they contemplate such steel mills, and from our own B.C. interior where another such steel mill is planned. There will come a further expansion I am sure in the near future right at the Coast close to Vancouver.

6. A further matter must be stressed: IT IS JAPAN'S IMPORTS OF OUR COALS. This must be encouraged by all means at this present time, and until Japan is able to find her fulfilment in greater fields closer home. But now she needs every help and encouragement from this continent to keep her oriented towards the Democracies, as has been recognized just this past week in the agreement signed between her and the United States, for which we can thank God.

I readily admit that this shipping of our iron ores and coking coals to Japan might also be classed as exploitation, but in the light of present conditions (in which we place great stock of Canada being an exporting nation) we must continue to supply export requirements until in the righting of world conditions (now soon to take place) we shall find it unnecessary to so export our basic commodities, but will find them fully used within our own borders for the production of manufactured goods (which surplus ONLY will we export either by sale, barter or gift)

The main objective of such exporting is to give full employment to all our male citizens, and cancel out the terrible unemployment rolls that sweep as tides every year across the whole of Canada and cost the tax-payer untold sums in unemployment payments.

We have proven that there are also many, many by-products of coal, coal tars and coal gas that can be sold commercially and very profitably.

7. I now come to one of the MOST IMPORTANT points: WE HAVE ALLOWED AND ARE ALLOWING THE EXPLOITATION OF OUR HYDRO-ELECTRIC RESOURCES to the intense profit of a handful of financiers. This must stop, for it can now be proven that we do not need these high dams on our rivers to kill the usefulness of much river bottom farm land, and to cancel out the commercial and food values of our fish runs, one of the finest sources of protein known, and which (in this expanding population) must be considered as one of the main interests.)

Let me mention two developments that hit home in our own British Columbia - the Peace River and the Columbia River plans.

In the first instance the waters of the Peace River and the Findlay River will be backed up some 200 miles in the form of a large T - flooding out presently (almost) unoccupied valley bottoms and low-rolling timbered hills. It is seen today ONLY as such; but sirs it MUST be seen in the eyes of farming land required for the population yet to come. Drawing to your attention that in our B.C. Province we are short on such farming land.

It might be said by some exploiters - that the land is not good enough for farming; that it is too cold; and other excuses; but it will prove excellently as useful as the Peace River country is presently doing; I will go further and say even that whole Rocky Mountain Trench North of Prince George into the Liard Plateau.

Coming back to the Columbia River proposed developments that will give us 50% values in down-river power generation additions as a result of our Canadian water storage basins. A high dam is ultimately projected for Mica Creek, but it will be a long time in the building, and may even then be found unnecessary for a series of much lower dams to take its place. But there is a proposal to build a high dam at Castlegar and thus flood the whole of the Arrow Lakes back up to Revelstoke to a depth of 40 ft and drown out the whole valley, which presently supports some agriculture, and ultimately will be expected and made to support greater numbers on forty acre farms. This Arrow Lake country must not be allowed to be drowned out. Land, good farming land is a God-given heritage to our coming sons and we must not let it be exploited thus when we have the basic fuel C O A L within such easy reach at the Crow's Nest, as well the benefits of downriver power production given back to us. It is also proven that a low dam at Castlegar will hold storage acreage of ample requirements for the immediate future, until it might be carefully checked as to a series of dams on the Columbia above Revelstoke into the Big Bend country.

But today we must NOT be led into rush developments that will rob Peter to pay Paul, but our whole outlook must be THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION and the needs of coming generations yet unborn even unto the thirty-third generation - 3000 A.D.

8. And now a word about nuclear power plants: Great strides have been made to bring this into use, and England has already its pilot Calder Hall plant in operation, and building larger atomic plants, which simply means that their costs for such power must even now be quite competitive with steam-electric fired by coal furnaces. The Pacific Gas & Electric are already using their pilot plant on San Francisco Bay, and plans now are ready for the construction of Canada's first atomic plant in Ontario at Kilcardine.

I noted in connection with P.G. & E's report that they expect to cut such new type power four to ten times cheaper than at present which makes a very interesting comparison. Such power plants are suitable for locations where other fuels are not obtainable, and it will mean that no part of our nation will lack from electrical energy.

I am convinced that the building of high dams on fish streams must never more be allowed: as already pointed out from the value of fish proteins and the loss of farming land in the valley bottoms.

The Proposed Peace River water storage area will flood at least 4000 square miles of the Rocky Mountain Trench and this means that 64,000 small farms would be eliminated as to any future usage. Such would support a farm family population of at least 320,000 and with essential village services even more so. The sustained timber yield from those lands will keep an excellent and large pulpwood industry operating and create an excellent sector of our British Columbia's economy in the years to come. The value that is envisioned NOW of \$300,000,000. initial stage development and an ultimate value of one billion dollars placed in Coal burning, steam-electric plants will produce an equal amount of power, whilst at the same time SAVING these lands for a food supply and living area usage for a thousand years to come, which value has no computation.

The writer made a study of the Fraser River problems prior to the final report of the Fraser River Board being published, and found that there was no necessity to dam the main stream of the Fraser....for all necessary benefits of power development, flood control, dyke erosion, saving of main stream farm land, could be secured by placing dams on the finger streams that fed the Fraser-Thompson systems. This is exactly what the Report also shewed, but it would appear that these facts are being shelved by our own Provincial Government in order to push and stress the Wenner Gren project on the Peace River.

The B.C. Government should be the first ones interested in the fact-finding of that Fraser River Board, and the first ones to implement those findings - which are excellent, and are of a nature to preserve and conserve the various interesting features mentioned. All these water storage areas are in the mountain lakes or tributary non-salmon streams and in no single instance affect fish or potential farming land. They safeguard the Delta farm lands by eliminating flood and erosion. Brought into operation year by year they will provide all the Lower Mainland and Southern B.C.'s power needs and along with the down-stream benefits from the Columbia in fact an oversupply.

Thus they are essential, whereas the Peace River dam is NOT essential, and a gradual build-up to its ultimate power potential can be provided by COAL in the Ground Hog area immediately to the West and the Peace River coal deposits immediately to the East.

I do thank the Lord for these thoughts, and trust and pray your findings will bring a revival to the coal mining industry and by extensive use in steam-electric generating plants, great blessing as outlined above.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Saxon Sledding
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P.S.

As of today, Feb 9th, 1960 whilst these copies are being readied there is good news of the B.C. Electric's purchase of the Hat Creek coal beds for such purposes as outlined above.

